CONSTRUCTION SITES
Storm Water Monitoring Study

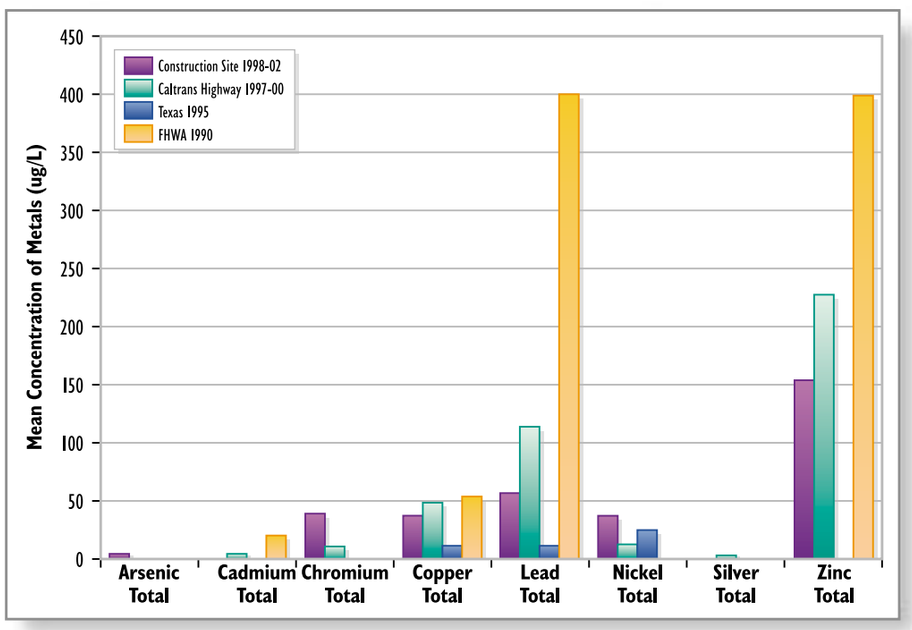
During the last four years, Caltrans has collected storm water quality data from Caltrans construction sites. One of the primary purposes of the study has been to develop a baseline of construction site storm water quality.

Among others, two principal questions investigated by the study were:

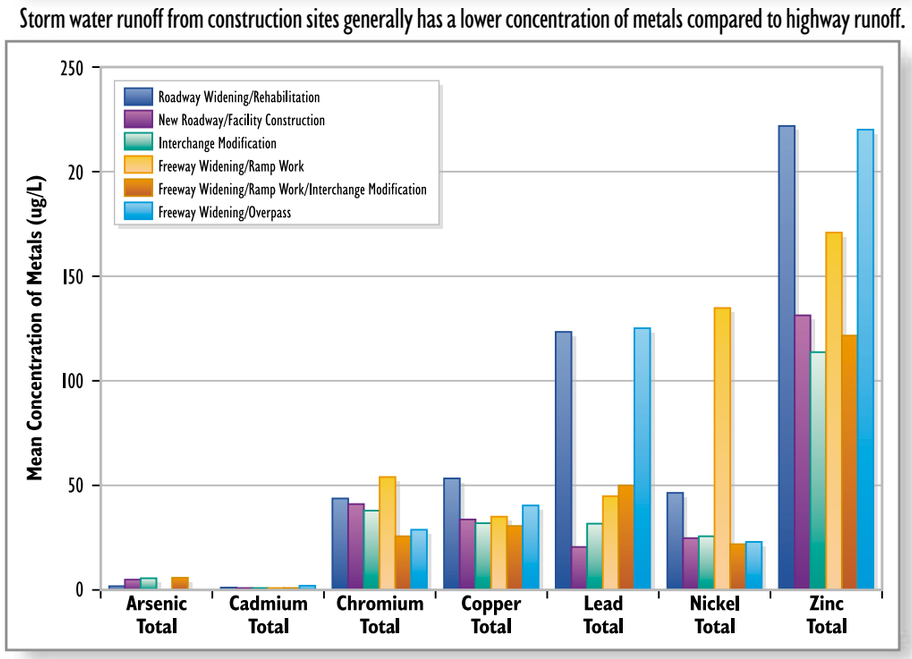
"Does construction site runoff differ significantly from freeway and highway storm runoff and, if so, why?"

"Can the constituents found in storm water runoff from construction sites be related to the type of construction project or construction activity?"

Monitoring crews take grab samples of storm water every 20 minutes at selected sites.

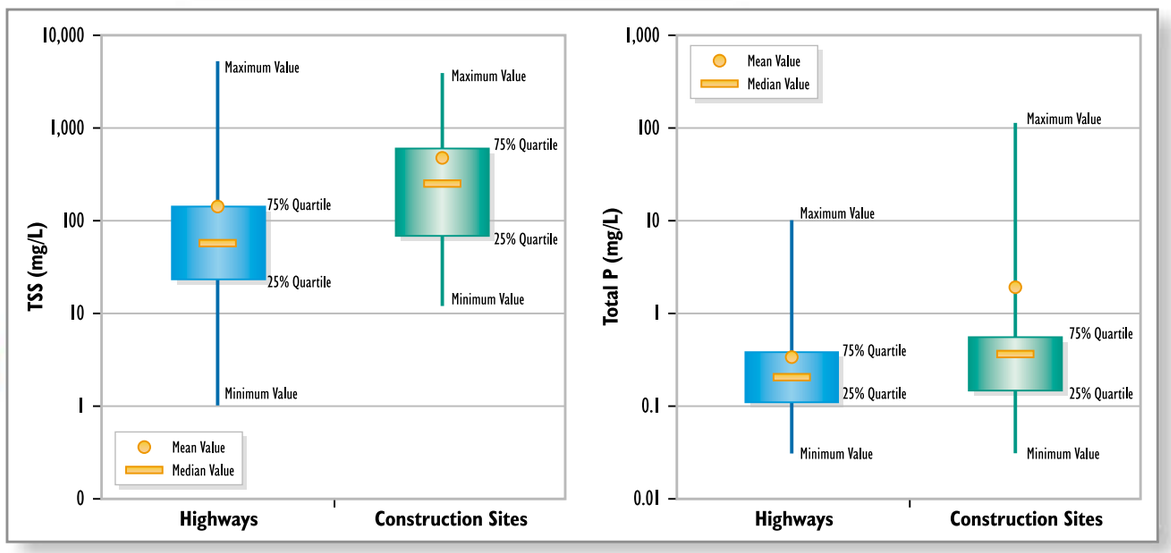


Storm water runoff from construction sites generally has a lower concentration of metals compared to highway runoff.



Storm water runoff from new construction appears to have lower concentrations of metals than modification to existing facilities.

(Above)
Storm water at a construction site pools behind a BMP prior to being collected for sampling.
(Left)
Concrete V-ditches provide a good opportunity to collect samples at construction sites.



Storm water runoff from construction sites generally has higher concentrations of total suspended solids and phosphorus compared to highway runoff.

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